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STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

February 14, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

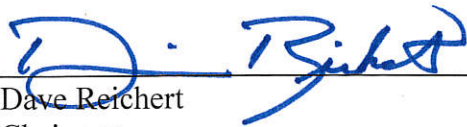
As you know, article 1 section 8 of the Constitution vests Congress with the authority to “lay and collect . . . duties” and to “regulate commerce with foreign nations.” Through statute, Congress has authorized the President to conduct trade negotiations consistent with Congressional negotiating objectives and to enforce those agreements as well as U.S. trade laws, in close consultation with Congress. For this partnership to work smoothly and to maintain Congressional prerogatives, it is essential that the United States Trade Representative be fully staffed at the most senior levels.

To that end, we write to urge you to bring to the Senate floor for consideration as soon as possible the nominations for senior positions at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. It is our expectation that having these key officials in place will create a better environment for consultation with Congress, especially with the designation of one of these officials as the agency’s Chief Transparency Officer, as USTR carries out its dual mission of seeking ambitious trade agreements that benefit all Americans and holding our trading partners accountable.

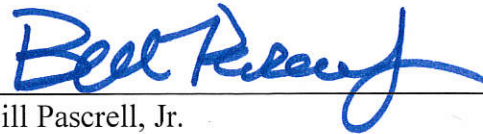
Sincerely,


Kevin Brady
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means


Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means



Dave Reichert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Trade



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

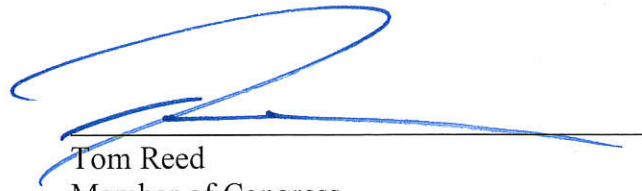


Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

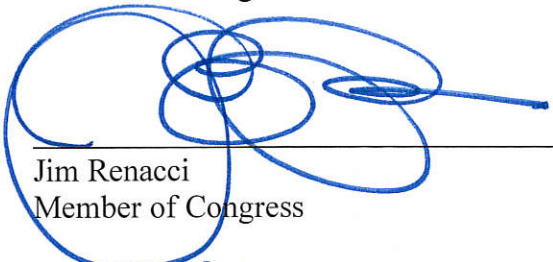
NE-03



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



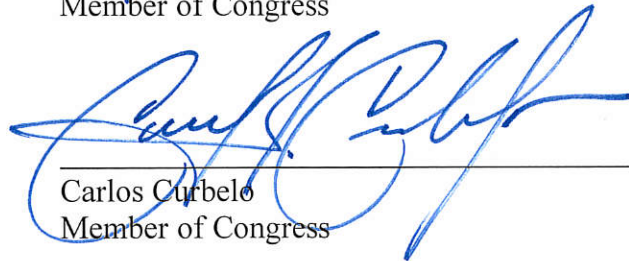
Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



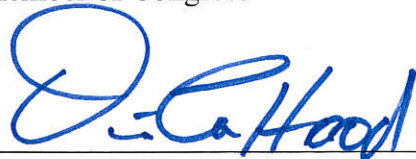
George Holding
Member of Congress



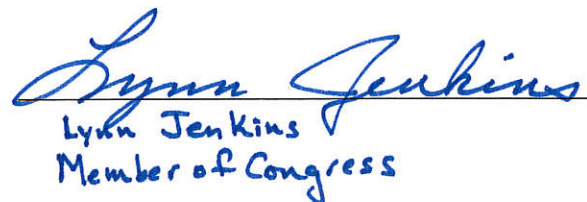
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Tom Rice

Jon Tester
Missouri 08

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Diane Black
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson

Michael D. Bishop
Michael D. Bishop

Ken Martin TX 24

John McCain AZ-6

Duke Kelly TX 3

Joe Rosum IL 6

John Lewis

Tim Wirth

Cc: Chairman Hatch, Senate Committee on Finance
Ranking Member Wyden, Senate Committee on Finance